

## **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1–5 are pending.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected.

Claims 1-5 have been amended without prejudice herein.

## **REMARKS**

Applicant's attorneys thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone conference regarding perfecting Applicant's foreign priority date for purposes of antedating references cited during prosecution.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In response, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the temporal centre of gravity of the illumination generated by the video word VW1 is greater than that generated by the video word VW2 below a predetermined video level. The claims as presently amended are consistent with Fig. 9 of the subject application and supported in the specification (see, e.g. page 15). Claims 1-5 were also amended to improve readability. Reconsideration and removal of this 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In response, Claim 3 has been amended to recite:

- (b) two video words whose corresponding video levels GL1' and GL2' are equal or approximately equal to the video levels GL1 and GL2, respectively, are determined from the said p video words;
- (c) one or other of the two video words determined

in step (b) is selected; and

(d) the video word whose temporal centre of gravity and video level are closest to those of the video word not selected in step (c) is selected from all the possible video word having bits with the same value as the video words selected for the common subfields.

Further, Claim 5 has been amended to be independent in form. Applicant submits the present claims fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112; reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,201,516 (Chevet) in view of European Patent Application No. EP01230158 (Thebault, published as EP1256924). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The present application was filed on September 18, 2003. The Office records indicate that a priority claim to French application serial no. 02/11662, filed September 20, 2002 was timely made, and a copy of the French application was received. Applicant submits herewith a certified translation of the French application. Accordingly, as Thebault was published after Applicant's priority date, reconsideration and removal of this reference and rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is requested.

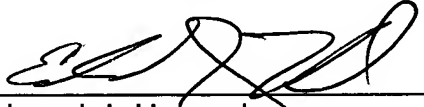
## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised in the outstanding Office action, and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 24, 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward J. Howard  
Registration No. 42,670

C/O THOMSON Licensing Inc.  
PO Box 5312  
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312